

# **Reyes Adobe Elementary School Agoura Hills, California 91301**



## **Seeking Your Comments on the Plan for Cleanup at the Proposed School Site**

*DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



### **INTRODUCTION**

Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD) conducted environmental investigations at the site for the Yerba Buena Elementary School relocation project (a.k.a. the proposed Reyes Adobe Elementary School) located at 6098 Reyes Adobe Road in Agoura Hills, California.

Elevated levels of pesticides and arsenic were detected in one area of the proposed Reyes Adobe Elementary School site (the Site). Based on those results, LVUSD prepared a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) proposing to remove approximately 1,500 cubic yards (90 truckloads) of soil from the Site under the oversight of our State agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). **You are invited to review and comment on this Draft RAW.**

### **IN THIS FACT SHEET YOU WILL FIND:**

- What was found
- How it got there
- That it is not a risk to public health
- Cleanup options
- Why and how the site will be cleaned up
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who to contact for more information
- Information about the **30-day Public Comment Period**

LVUSD is responsible for the site cleanup. DTSC will provide oversight to ensure that the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that protect the public's health and the environment.

### **Public Comment Period**

**May 7, 2004 – June 6, 2004**

The purpose of the public comment period is to give the community an opportunity to review and provide us with your comments and questions on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the proposed Reyes Adobe Elementary School. We invite you to send your comments to:

Mr. Joe Sevrean  
DTSC Project Manager  
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control  
1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201-2205  
(818) 551-2820  
[Jsevrean@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Jsevrean@dtsc.ca.gov)

DTSC may conduct a public meeting on the draft RAW during the public comment period if there is significant community interest. Please contact:

Ms. Maya Akula  
DTSC Public Participation  
Specialist at (818) 551-2917 or  
[Makula@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Makula@dtsc.ca.gov)

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Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the project's short duration, and the controlled manner in which the arsenic/pesticide-containing soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks, and transported to a state-approved disposal facility.

## WHAT WAS FOUND

LVUSD conducted a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (environmental investigation) and a Supplemental Site Investigation at the proposed school site under DTSC oversight. The focus of the investigations was to determine if there were impacts from chemicals (such as pesticides and metals) related to past agricultural practices at the property before the elementary school is constructed.

During the extensive environmental investigations, soil was tested throughout the proposed school site to determine whether there had been any impact from historic site activities. The investigations identified an approximate 1.0 acre area at the proposed school site where former agricultural activities occurred (depicted as Area 2 on the enclosed campus map). Elevated levels of pesticides and arsenic were detected on approximately 0.25-acres of the 1.0-acre area (a portion of the proposed playfield locations). The levels of pesticides and arsenic detected are above those allowed by DTSC for school sites.

LVUSD submitted a Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) report to DTSC in December 2003. The SSI documents elevated concentrations of arsenic and the following organochlorine pesticides: DDD, DDE, DDT, alpha-chlordane, gamma-chlordane, dieldrin, and heptachlor epoxide.

As a result, a site cleanup (at the proposed playfield locations) known as a removal action is being proposed to remove and eliminate any potential long-term health risks posed by the pesticides and arsenic in the soil. Once the affected soil is removed, the potential risk will be reduced to levels that are safe for students and school staff. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that the removal is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

## HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE AND WHY A CLEANUP IS NEEDED

The pesticides and arsenic **may** have come from agricultural operations associated with the former farmhouse located on the site from the mid-1930s until the mid-1970s. The Site has been vacant since the mid-1970s.

The contaminated soil must be removed **PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION** due to the potential health effects from long term exposure.

## NOT A RISK TO THE PUBLIC

The contaminated soil is not an immediate risk to the people who work or live nearby because the contamination is covered with natural vegetation and access to this area is restricted.

## CLEANUP OPTIONS

Several cleanup options were evaluated. Protection of human health and the environment was the most important factor considered. The following options were reviewed:

Option 1 – No Action

Option 2 – On-site Containment (Capping)

Option 3 – Excavation and Disposal  
(Preferred Option)

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Any cleanup plan must protect public health and the environment, have a reasonable cost, and information about the cleanup must be shared with the community. The best plan recommended in the draft RAW that meets these goals is Option 3. The preferred cleanup option was selected because it is permanent, effective, feasible, protects human health, and has a reasonable cost.

### HOW LVUSD PLANS TO CLEAN IT UP

The proposed RAW is to remove approximately 1,500 cubic yards (**90 truckloads**) of contaminated soil from the site. The top 0.5- to 5.5-feet of soil will be removed and transported to a state-approved disposal facility. Once the soil is removed, clean soil will be used to fill the excavated area.

To ensure that there is no risk to the surrounding residents from the cleanup activities, LVUSD will conduct the soil removal work on weekdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The cleanup will take approximately 5 weeks to complete (tentatively scheduled to begin in August 2004). The removal action will include digging out the soil, transporting it, follow-up confirmation soil sampling and analysis, and site restoration.

### SAFETY AND DUST CONTROLS DURING CLEANUP

If the cleanup plan is approved as written, some noise from the earth-moving equipment can be expected during the removal. An effort will be made to keep the noise to a minimum. No traffic delays are expected while the trucks are driving to and from the proposed school site. The trucks will generally exit the site via Lindero Canyon Road and travel south on to US-101 and on to the disposal facility.

LVUSD will take the following steps to ensure safety and minimize the impact of dust generated during the cleanup:

- The site will be fenced and secured.
- Caution tape and construction cones will be placed around the excavation and staging areas.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the site.
- Work areas will be sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust.
- Water mist will be sprayed on soil loaded into the transport trucks.
- Trucks will be covered with a tarp as they leave the site to prevent soil from falling off.
- The air will be monitored on-site to ensure the amount of dust stays at a safe level.

### YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft RAW during the Public Comment Period, which **begins on May 7, 2004, and ends on June 6, 2004**. Please send your questions and thoughts about the proposed cleanup option to: Mr. Joe Sevrean, DTSC Project Manager, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201, phone no. (818) 551-2820. Comments must be postmarked no later than **June 6, 2004**.

### WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (TECHNICAL REPORTS)

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the Draft Removal Action Workplan for the proposed Reyes Adobe Elementary School. This workplan and the other documents about the investigation are available for your review at the following locations:

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**Las Virgenes Unified School District**

Administrative Offices  
4111 Las Virgenes Road  
Calabasas, California 91302  
Phone: (818) 880-4000  
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Yerba Buena Elementary School**

5844 Larboard Lane  
Agoura Hills, California 91302  
Phone: (818) 889-0040  
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Regional Records Office  
1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
Phone: (818) 551-2886 Contact: Jone Barrio,  
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

**WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION**

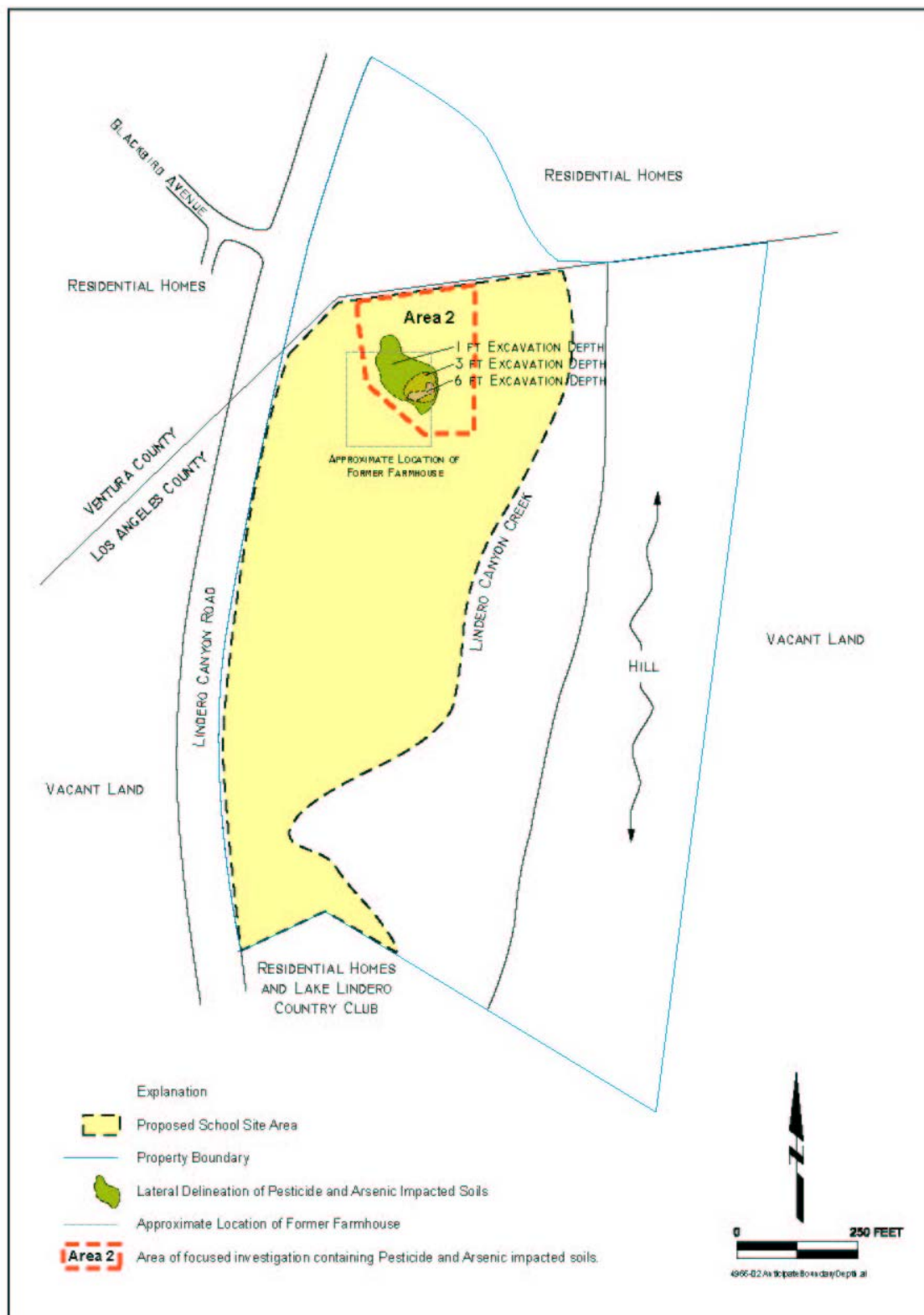
If you have any questions about the cleanup project or activities, please call the following persons at our agency: Ms. Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2917; or Mr. Joe Sevrean, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2820. For media inquiries, please contact Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions about the cleanup work schedule or on-site cleanup activities, please call Dr. Donald Zimring, LVUSD Deputy Superintendent, at (818) 880-4000.

**NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Ms. Maya Akula at (818) 551-2917.

# PROPOSED REYES ADOBE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS MAP SHOWING SOILS REMOVAL LOCATION



ANTICIPATED EXCAVATION BOUNDARIES AND DEPTHS

## COMMENT FORM

If you have any comments concerning the proposed **Reyes Adobe Elementary School Draft Removal Action Workplan**, please fill out the information below and mail by **June 6, 2004** in the enclosed envelope. If you did not receive a return envelope, please mail your comments to: Mr. Joe Sevrean, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. **Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the written Response to Comments** when the Final Removal Action Workplan is issued.

Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Address

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (attach additional pages if needed)

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[Note: Your comments will be considered public records for this site and, if requested, may be subject to release.]